

## Lesson VII.

## THE PARABLE OF THE TWO SONS

August 12, 1906

Luke 15 : 11-32. Commit to memory vs. 17, 18. Read Luke 7 : 36-50 ; 15 : 1-10 ; 19 : 1-9.

GOLDEN TEXT—Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord.—Malachi 3 : 7.

11 And he said, A certain man had two sons :  
 12 And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of <sup>1</sup> goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living.  
 13 And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living.

14 And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that <sup>2</sup> land ; and he began to be in want.

15 And he went and joined himself to <sup>3</sup> a citizen of that country ; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine.

16 And he would fain have <sup>4</sup> filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat : and no man gave unto him.

17 <sup>5</sup> And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish <sup>6</sup> with hunger !

18 I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and <sup>7</sup> before thee.

19 <sup>8</sup> And am no more worthy to be called thy son : make me as one of thy hired servants.

20 And he arose, and came to his father. But <sup>9</sup> when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and <sup>10</sup> had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

21 And the son said unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in thy sight, <sup>11</sup> and am no more worthy to be called thy son.

Revised Version—<sup>1</sup> thy substance ; <sup>2</sup> country ; <sup>3</sup> one of the citizens ; <sup>4</sup> being filled with ; <sup>5</sup> But ; <sup>6</sup> here ; <sup>7</sup> in thy sight ; <sup>8</sup> I am ; <sup>9</sup> while he was yet afar off ; <sup>10</sup> was moved with ; <sup>11</sup> quickly ; <sup>12</sup> Omit hither ; <sup>13</sup> make ; <sup>14</sup> to him ; <sup>15</sup> inquired ; <sup>16</sup> might be ; <sup>17</sup> and his father came out ; <sup>18</sup> But he answered and ; <sup>19</sup> and I never transgressed a commandment of thine ; <sup>20</sup> when this thy son came ; <sup>21</sup> killedst ; <sup>22</sup> all that is mine is thine ; <sup>23</sup> But it was meet to make merry.

## LESSON PLAN

I. The Wanderer, 11-16.

II. The Home-coming, 17-24.

III. The Angry Brother, 25-32.

## DAILY READINGS

(By courtesy of I. B. R. Association)

M.—Lost and found, Luke 15 : 1-10. T.—Parable of the two sons, Luke 15 : 11-24. W.—Parable of the two sons, Luke 15 : 25-32. Th.—The far country, Jer. 2 : 9-19. F.—Repent and turn ! Ezek. 18 : 26-32. S.—Promise of mercy, Hos., ch. 14. S.—Returning to God, 2 Chron. 33 : 1-13.

Shorter Catechism—Ques. 25. How doth Christ execute the office of a priest ? A. Christ executeth the office of a priest in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God ; and in making continual intercession for us.

The Question on Missions—30. Is anything being done specially for women and girls ? For years, Girls' Homes have been set up at some of the stations by the wife of the missionary, and a central Home has now been established at Princetown under the care of Miss Archibald. Ten Bible women are employed to teach women in their homes.

Lesson Hymns—Book of Praise, 251 (Supplemental Lesson) ; 129 ; 152 ; 76 (Ps. Sel.) ; 548 (from PRIMARY QUARTERLY) ; 151.

## EXPOSITION

Time and Place—Winter of A.D. 30 ; Perea.

Connecting Links—Jesus' practice of mingling with the outcasts of society in order to bring them into His kingdom had scandalized the self-righteous classes. The three parables of Luke, ch. 15, have the same theme, God's gracious seeking of the erring, the lost, the sinful. In this third parable of the series, a new element is added, the sinner's turning towards the Father, who is waiting to receive him. The parable of the Prodigal Son is the pearl and crown of all parables. "It is a world of wisdom and hope condensed into a few words, as a whole landscape is painted on the retina

of the eye." It is, verily, the gospel in miniature.

## I. The Wanderer, 11-16.

Vs. 11-13. A certain man ; representing the heavenly Father. Two sons ; who are two types, the elder, of the respectable Jews, who had never been guilty of shocking unrighteousness, the younger, of penitent publicans and sinners. The younger ; who would have a smaller portion of the estate, and therefore less interest in its improvement. Portion of goods ; that is, one-third of the father's possessions, Deut. 21 : 17. He divided. Often an old man might renounce his whole property to his sons ; but they were required to support him in comfort to the end of his